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Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., orders flags to half-staff in honor of the late U.S. Army Specialist Troy Orion Tom

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., today ordered flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff from August 26 through August 29 in honor and recognition of the late U.S. Army Specialist Troy Orion Tom, 21, who was killed in Arghandab, Afghanistan on Monday (local time) supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

"All of the Navajo Nation grieves the loss of another of our young men defending freedom," President Shirley said. "Specialist Tom was an exemplary young man and soldier, and our hearts go out to his family. His service will always be remembered."

Services for Spc. Tom are scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at the Farmington Civic Center.

Spc. Tom was the son of Carolyn and David Tom of Beclabito, N.M. Mr. Tom is a Navajo Nation Council Delegate representing Beclabito-Cudeii.

Spc. Tom was a 2006 graduate of Aztec High School, Aztec, N.M. He joined the U.S. Army on June 13, 2006. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington.

He is the ninth Navajo Nation serviceman killed in the war on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is survived by his parents, his brothers Seve Tom, 24, Leon Harvey, 13, sister Carrizoe, 19, and his maternal grandmother Nellie Benally of Shiprock.

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